

**Modification history**

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0.

<b>ACMEQD403</b>	<b>Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions</b>				
<b>Application</b>	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to evaluate the anatomy and physiology of the equine head, with specific reference to how the teeth and related dental structures can affect equine health.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who provide routine dental care to ensure the health and efficient physiological function of equine dentition. They work autonomously and apply in depth, technical knowledge and skills to provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.</p> <p>Legislative and regulatory requirements, including health and safety and animal welfare, apply to the scope of work of equine dental service providers, and vary according to state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.</p> <p>No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>				
<b>Prerequisite Unit</b>	<p>Nil</p> <p><del>Prerequisite units of competency for this unit are:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely</del></li> </ul> <p><del>Note the following chain of prerequisites that also apply to this unit:</del></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Unit of competency</th> <th>Prerequisite requirement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><del>ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely</del></td> <td><del>ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour</del></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement	<del>ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely</del>	<del>ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour</del>
Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement				
<del>ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely</del>	<del>ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour</del>				
<b>Unit Sector</b>	Equine Dentistry (EQD)				

**Commented [SH1]:**  
 This appears to be a very knowledge-based unit. Could the content be merged into other units i.e. in PCs and knowledge evidence.  
 •Prerequisites – remove and embed knowledge of safety / horse interactions

**Commented [SH2]:** Remove prerequisites - TBC

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Evaluate the impact of dental and oral health on digestion and nutrient absorption	1.1 Identify and describe structures of the head that relate to prehension, mastication, swallowing and digestion 1.2 Identify and describe functions of the head and oral structures in relation to prehension, mastication, swallowing and digestion, and general health 1.3 Analyse the relationship between muscular structure, dental occlusion and masticatory action 1.4 Determine changes in the skull and oro-pharynx due to age, disease and injury 1.5 Evaluate other factors affecting oral function and digestive processes 1.6 Define and identify consequences of poor oral health on equine physiology and nutrient absorption
2. Evaluate the impact of dental and oral conditions on equine health	2.1 Identify and describe dental and oral trauma and their possible causes 2.2 Identify and describe other acquired dental and oral conditions 2.3 Identify and describe dental congenital and genetic abnormalities 2.4 Identify and describe other abnormal conditions 2.5 Evaluate potential impacts and consequences on general health of dental injuries, diseases and abnormalities

**Commented [SH3]:** Add element or PC on assessing the fit or fitting bits and bridles?

ACMEQD403 Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Evaluate the impact of unskilled or inappropriate dental care on equine health	3.1 Evaluate and describe potential consequences of the absence of dental care on the health of the horse or other equine 3.2 Identify and describe the consequences of unskilled or inappropriate dental techniques and treatments 3.3 Describe the implications of leaving tooth root fragments behind after extraction 3.4 Describe the consequences of excessive or inappropriate filing (floating) on the teeth and associated structures and the impact on the masticatory function 3.5 Identify other possible causes of dental and/or oral damage or disease and describe the consequences

**Commented [SH4]:** Could aspects of element 1 and 3 of ACMEQD401 Work within an equine dental service provision framework be incorporated in this unit?  
 1. Commit to the principles and practices of equine dentistry  
 3. Represent equine dentistry practices available to the community

Foundation Skills	
<i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i>	
Skill	Description
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse complex references, anatomical diagrams and other resources relevant to equine dental and oral conditions from a variety of sources and consolidate information</li> </ul>

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQD403 Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions	ACMEQD403 Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions		

Links
Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <a href="https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103">https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103</a>

TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMEQD403 Identify potential health impacts of equine oral conditions
<b>Performance Evidence</b>	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has examined the dental anatomy and physiology of the equine head on at least six different horses or other equines to identify potential health impacts of oral conditions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• condition scoring to review overall health of each equine</li> <li>• explaining the process of mastication and nutrient absorption and the impact of poor occlusion or masticatory action on equine health</li> <li>• assessing how the teeth and related dental structures affect equine health</li> <li>• identifying evidence of unskilled or inappropriate dental care</li> <li>• identifying a range of pathology and health issues that could occur due to a lack of dental care or as a result of unskilled or inappropriate dental care</li> <li>• performing the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during, and contributing to, an overall period of at least 120 hours of work supervised by supervised by an equine dental service provider who is a dental association member and/or a qualified equine dental service provider and/or is currently commercially active in providing equine dental services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Knowledge Evidence</b>	
<p>An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anatomy and physiology of the equine head and oral structures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• features of the equine mouth and teeth</li> <li>• features of correctly formed, healthy and well-maintained equine dental and oral structures</li> <li>• normal and abnormal functions including physiology and effect of diet</li> </ul> </li> <li>• terminology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anatomical directional terminology</li> <li>• established dental terminology related to equine dental care</li> </ul> </li> <li>• appropriate industry and state/territory equine dental codes of conduct and standards of practice to assist in identifying unskilled or inappropriate dental care</li> <li>• techniques for condition scoring horses or other equines</li> <li>• indicators of equine distress, illness, pain and disease</li> <li>• influence of different diets and husbandries on mastication and oral health</li> <li>• nutritional requirements and digestive processes of equines</li> <li>• techniques and instruments used to provide equine dental care</li> <li>• causes and consequences of equine ailments, infections and injuries relevant to dental care</li> <li>• potential consequences of the absence of dental care on equine health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• untreated pathology, including periodontal disease</li> <li>• inability or reluctance to prehend or to masticate effectively</li> <li>• poor acceptance of a bit, bridle or head collar or other behavioural problems</li> <li>• gastrointestinal tract impaction and/or colic</li> </ul> </li> <li>• potential consequences of unskilled or inappropriate dental techniques and treatments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• damage to or severing of nerves or blood vessels, such as palatine artery, including epistaxis</li> <li>• lacerated oral tissues, fracture of teeth or of the bones of the skull and mandible</li> <li>• pulpitis or pulp necrosis (tooth death) due to pulp exposure, or near exposure, or thermal or mechanical damage</li> <li>• absence of referral when appropriate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• techniques and reasons for infection control in the practice of equine dental/oral procedures</li> <li>• zoonotic and contagious disease symptoms, prophylaxis, work health and safety and biosecurity protocols.</li> </ul>	

**Commented [SH5]:** Make PE more specific  
 •examine the oral condition of at least 10 live equines with at least one horse covering each of the following:

- life stage
- young (less than 5 years)
- mature
- geriatric/aged
- diets
- pasture/paddock
- stable feed
- high performance feed

**Commented [SH6]:** Delete?

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### Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - an equine workplace or an environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - live horses or other equines assessed as suitable for the skill level of the individual, cadavers or simulations (visual aids and/or anatomical models) with different health or oral conditions
  - appropriate tack, materials and equipment for examining equine dental condition
  - personal protective equipment correctly fitted and applicable to activity for the individual.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training*.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

### Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>